

**PARACHUTE RIGGER
KNOWLEDGE TEST GUIDE**

October 15, 2003



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration

INTRODUCTION

FAA-G-8082-15A, Parachute Rigger Knowledge Test Guide, offers information for preparing to take one or all of the following knowledge tests. This document supersedes FAA-G-8082-15, dated 1999.

- Parachute Rigger—Senior (RIG)
- Parachute Rigger—Master (RMP)
- Parachute Rigger—Military Competence (RMC)

As parachuting has grown over the last 30 years, so has the need for skilled riggers. The introduction of the ram-air canopy gave the sport a parachute that is highly maneuverable and capable of gentle landings. This advancement of parachute technology opened the sport to many persons who would not have considered it a few years ago. As a result of the rapid expansion of parachute technology, today's riggers are faced with an ever expanding variety of equipment, materials, and rigging requirements. The ram-air canopy, being more complex than the simple round canopy of a few years ago, requires different packing and repair methods, making it essential that today's rigger possess a high degree of knowledge and skill.

Comments regarding this guide should be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration, Airman Testing Standards Branch, AFS-630, Attn: ATP Certification Area Manager, P.O. Box 25082, Oklahoma City, OK 73125. Comments may also be e-mailed to AFS630Comments@faa.gov.

KNOWLEDGE TEST ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The general qualifications for a senior or master parachute rigger's certificate require that the you have a combination of experience, knowledge, and skill.

If you are pursuing a senior, master, or military competence certificate, you should carefully review the appropriate sections of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 65, subpart A and subpart F for detailed information pertaining to this subject.

KNOWLEDGE AREAS ON THE TESTS

Parachute rigger knowledge tests are comprehensive because they must test your knowledge in many subject areas.

If you are pursuing a senior parachute rigger certificate, you should review 14 CFR part 65, section 65.115 for the knowledge areas on the test.

If you are pursuing a military competence senior parachute rigger certificate, you should review 14 CFR part 65, section 65.117 for the knowledge areas on the test.

If you are pursuing a master parachute rigger certificate, you should review 14 CFR part 65, section 65.119 for the knowledge areas on the test.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TESTS

The maximum time allowed for taking each test is 2 hours for either the senior or master certificate, and 1 hour for the military competence test. The allotted time is based on previous experience and educational statistics. This amount of time is considered more than adequate for applicants with proper preparation and instruction.

The following tests each contain 50 questions, and you are allowed 2 hours to complete each test.

- Parachute Rigger—Senior (RIG)
- Parachute Rigger—Master (RMP)

The following test contains 25 questions, and you are allowed 1 hour to complete the test.

- Parachute Rigger—Military Competence (RMC)

All test questions are the objective, multiple-choice type. Each question can be answered by the selection of a single response. Each test question is independent of other questions; therefore, a correct response to one does not depend upon, or influence the correct response to another.

Communication between individuals through the use of words is a complicated process. In addition to being an exercise in the application and use of aeronautical knowledge, a test is also an exercise in communication since it involves the use of the written language. Since the tests involve written rather than spoken words, communication between the test writer and the person being tested may become a difficult matter if care is not exercised by both parties. Consequently, considerable effort is expended to write each question in a clear, precise manner. Applicants should carefully read the information and instructions given with the tests, as well as the statements in each test item.

When taking a test, keep the following points in mind:

- Answer each question in accordance with the latest regulations and guidance publications.
- Read each question carefully before looking at the possible answers. You should clearly understand the problem before attempting to solve it.
- After formulating an answer, determine which of the alternatives most nearly corresponds with that answer. The answer chosen should completely resolve the problem.
- From the answers given, it may appear that there is more than one possible answer; however, there is only one answer that is correct and complete. The other answers are either incomplete or are derived from popular misconceptions.
- If a certain question is difficult for you, it is best to mark it for review and proceed to the other questions. After you answer the less difficult questions, return to those which you marked for review and answer them. The review procedure will be explained to you prior to starting the test. When you have finished taking the test, make sure an answer has been recorded for each question. However, the computer will alert you to all unanswered questions. This procedure will enable you to use the available time to the maximum advantage.
- When solving a calculation problem, select the answer closest to your solution. The problems have been checked with various types of calculators; therefore, if you have solved it correctly, your answer will be closer to the correct answer than any of the other choices.

PROCESS FOR TAKING A KNOWLEDGE TEST

If you are planning on taking the parachute rigger knowledge test for the first time, you will need to obtain permission to test. This may be accomplished at your local FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) or International Field Office (IFO). This should be done before contacting the testing center. When you visit the FSDO or IFO, you will be asked to fill out an FAA Form 8610-2, Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application, and to show documentation of your experience. You must also provide a permanent mailing address and positive proof of identification. The identification presented must include your current photograph, signature, and actual residential address, if different from the mailing address. This information may be presented in more than one form of identification.

Acceptable forms of identification include, but are not limited to, driver's licenses, government identification cards, passports, alien residency (green) cards, and military identification cards. Other forms of identification that meet the requirements of this paragraph are acceptable. Some applicants may not possess the identification documentation described. If you are under the age of 21, your parent or guardian may have to accompany you and present identification of themselves as described previously. Your parent or guardian may then attest to your identity. In any case, you should always check with your local FSDO or IFO if you are unsure of what kind of authorization to bring to the office.

Once your eligibility has been established, you will be given FAA Form 8610-2 properly completed and signed by the interviewing Airworthiness Safety Inspector (ASI). This is the form you must present at the testing center to take the test.

The next step is the actual registration process. This may be done either of two ways, you may contact the computer testing designees (CTDs) through their national 1-800 number (refer to the section titled, *Obtaining Training and Testing Publications and General Information* for a listing of CTD's phone numbers), or call directly to a local site. A complete listing of test centers maybe found on the Internet at the web address: afs600.faa.gov, and under the heading "Airman Testing Standards (630)." You will then need to schedule a test date, and make financial arrangements for test payment. You may register for the tests several weeks in advance, and you may cancel your appointment according to the computer testing designee's (CTDs) cancellation policy. If you do not follow the CTD's cancellation policies, you could be subject to a cancellation fee.

At the test site, you will again be asked to provide proper identification and the completed FAA Form 8610-2. Testing center personnel will not begin the test until the required items are verified.

Before you take the actual test, you will have the option to take a sample test. The actual test is time limited; however, you should have sufficient time to complete and review your test.

Upon completion you will receive your Airman Knowledge Test Report, with the testing center's embossed seal, which reflects your score.

The Airman Knowledge Test Report lists the subject matter knowledge codes for questions answered incorrectly. The total number of subject matter knowledge codes shown on the Airman Knowledge Test Report is not necessarily an indication of the total number of questions answered incorrectly.

Should you require a duplicate Airman Knowledge Test Report due to loss or destruction of the original, send a signed request accompanied by a check or money order for \$1 payable to the FAA. Your request should be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration, Airmen Certification Branch, AFS-760, P.O. Box 25082, Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

USE OF TEST AIDS AND MATERIALS

You may use aids, reference materials, and test materials within the guidelines listed below, if actual test questions or answers are not revealed. All models of aviation-oriented calculators may be used, including small electronic calculators that perform only arithmetic functions (add, subtract, multiply, and divide). Simple programmable memories, which allow addition to, subtraction from, or retrieval of one number from the memory, are permissible. Also, simple functions, such as square root and percent keys are permissible. The following guidelines apply:

1. You may use any reference materials provided with the test. In addition, you may use scales, straightedges, protractors, plotters, navigation computers, log sheets, holding pattern entry aids, and electronic or mechanical calculators that are directly related to the test.
2. Manufacturer's permanently inscribed instructions on the front and back of such aids, e.g., formulas, conversions, regulations, signals, weather data, holding pattern diagrams, frequencies, weight and balance formulas, and air traffic control procedures are permissible.
3. Testing centers may provide a calculator to you and/or deny use of your personal calculator based on the following limitations:
 - a. Prior to, and upon completion of the test, while in the presence of the proctor, you must actuate the ON/OFF switch and perform any other function that ensures erasure of any data stored in memory circuits.
 - b. The use of electronic calculators incorporating permanent or continuous type memory circuits without erasure capability is prohibited. The proctor may refuse the use of your calculator when unable to determine the calculator's erasure capability.
 - c. Printouts of data must be surrendered at the completion of the test if the calculator incorporates this design feature.
 - d. The use of magnetic cards, magnetic tapes, modules, computer chips, or any other device upon which pre-written programs or information related to the test can be stored and retrieved is prohibited.
 - e. You are not permitted to use any booklet or manual containing instructions related to use of test aids.
4. Dictionaries are not allowed in the testing area.
5. The proctor makes the final determination relating to test materials and personal possessions you may take into the testing area.

DYSLEXIC TESTING PROCEDURES

If you are a dyslexic applicant, you may request approval from the local Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) or International Field Office (IFO) to take an airman knowledge test using one of the three options listed in preferential order:

1. Option one. Use current testing facilities and procedures whenever possible.
2. Option two. You may use a Franklin Speaking Wordmaster® to facilitate the testing process. The Wordmaster® is a self-contained electronic thesaurus that audibly pronounces typed in words and presents them on a display screen. It has a built-in headphone jack for private listening. The headphone feature must be used during testing to avoid disturbing others.
3. Option three. If you do not choose to use the first or second option may request a proctor to assist in reading specific words or terms from the test questions and supplement material. In the interest of preventing compromise of the testing process, the proctor must be someone who is non-aviation oriented.

The proctor must provide reading assistance only, with no explanation of words or terms. When this option is requested, the FSDO or IFO inspector must contact AFS-630 for assistance in selecting the test site and proctor.

Prior to approval of any option, the FSDO or IFO inspector must advise you of the regulatory certification requirement of being able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language.

CHEATING OR OTHER UNAUTHORIZED CONDUCT

Computer testing centers must follow strict security procedures to avoid test compromise. These procedures are established by the FAA and are covered in FAA Order 8080.6, Conduct of Airman Knowledge Tests. The FAA has directed testing centers to terminate a test at any time a test proctor suspects a cheating incident has occurred. An FAA investigation will then be conducted. If the investigation determines that cheating or unauthorized conduct has occurred, then any airman certificate or rating that you hold may be revoked, and you will be prohibited for 1 year from applying for or taking any test for a certificate or rating under 14 CFR part 61.

VALIDITY OF AIRMAN KNOWLEDGE TEST REPORTS

Airman Knowledge Test Reports are valid for the 24-calendar month period preceding the month you complete the practical test. If the Airman Knowledge Test Report expires before completion of the practical test, you must retake the knowledge test.

RETESTING PROCEDURES

If you receive a grade lower than a 70 percent and wish to retest, you must present the following to testing center personnel.

- failed Airman Knowledge Test Report; and
- a written endorsement from an authorized instructor certifying that additional instruction has been given, and the instructor finds you competent to pass the test.

If you decide to retake the test in anticipation of a better score, you may retake the test after 30 days from the date your last test was taken. The FAA will not allow you to retake a passed test before the 30-day period has lapsed. Prior to retesting, you must give your current Airman Knowledge Test Report to the test proctor. The last test taken will reflect the official score.

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OBTAINING TRAINING AND TESTING PUBLICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Most of the current Flight Standards Service airman training and testing publications can be obtained in electronic format from the Regulatory Support Division's (AFS-600) web site. AFS-600's Internet address is:

<http://afs600.faa.gov>

The training and testing publications and general information can be found on the Airman Testing Standards (AFS-630) portion of AFS-600's web site.

You will find the following links available on AFS-630's portion of the web site. (If a publication is not available in electronic format, there is a listing of the current publication along with instructions on how to obtain paper copies.)

- ✍ Advisory Circulars
- ✍ Airman Knowledge Test Questions
- ✍ Airman Knowledge Testing Sites
- ✍ Airman Knowledge Testing Supplements
- ✍ Airman Knowledge Testing Information
- ✍ Other Testing Information
- ✍ Practical Test Standards
- ✍ Test Statistics
- ✍ Training Handbooks
- ✍ Subject Matter Knowledge Codes

Advisory Circulars

The advisory circulars provide guidance and information on various subjects related to airman certification.

Airman Knowledge Test Items

The airman knowledge test items contain the airman knowledge question banks representative of questions for airman knowledge tests and the corresponding subject matter knowledge codes, indicating specific references from which questions are developed.

The sample questions that are published on the web site are organized by content category and represent the types of questions included in the actual test banks. Practicing these questions will help you become familiar with similar questions on the airman knowledge tests. The knowledge test is not designed to intimidate any prospective airman; it is designed to measure their understanding of the rules and regulations required to receive an FAA certificate.

The policy regarding public access to test questions is to continue publishing questions that affect special emphasis areas regarding safety, such as aeronautical decision making, airspace, aircraft performance, operations/airworthiness regulations, weather services and reports, etc. However, we do not publish all test questions. Many questions in the test banks are parallel in content area or format and publishing same types of questions would not help the applicant in determining areas to study. Examples would include questions involving a process or calculation, such as weight and balance or performance questions using the same chart. Our intent in not publishing every question in the airman test bank is to respond to the public demand for proper evaluation of prospective airmen. It is our duty to respond to these issues and provide valid and reliable tests to make certain that qualified applicants meet the FAA airman knowledge testing standards.

Airman Knowledge Testing Sites

The airman knowledge testing sites contains a current listing of computer testing designees and computer testing centers, and the registration telephone numbers required when registering for a test.

The following is a list of the computer testing designees authorized to give FAA airman knowledge tests. This list should be helpful in case you choose to register for a test or simply want more information. This information is current as of October 2003.

✍ Computer Assisted Testing Service (CATS)

1801 Murchison Drive, Suite 288
Burlingame, CA 94010

Applicant inquiry and test registration:
1-800-947-4228

From outside the U.S. (650) 259-8550

✍ LaserGrade Computer Testing

16821 S.E. McGillivray, Suite 201
Vancouver, WA 98683

Applicant inquiry and test registration:
1-800-211-2754

From outside the U.S. (360) 896-9111

Airman Knowledge Testing Supplements

The airman knowledge testing supplements contain the graphics, legends, and maps that are needed to successfully respond to certain knowledge test items. The supplements will be located at this web site as they become available in electronic format. There is a current listing of all available supplements (file name: supplements.pdf) and instructions on how to purchase.

Knowledge Test Guides

The knowledge test guides describe the knowledge testing policy and procedures for each certification area.

Other Computer Testing Information

Other computer testing information provides specific test information, such as test name, test code (three-digit test identifiers), number of questions, and the time (hours) allotted for each knowledge test. The test identifiers will assist you in selecting the proper test for the certification/rating being sought.

Practical Test Standards

The practical test standards outline the knowledge and skill requirements for each airman certificate and rating. The references listed in each task of the practical test standards indicate the specific publications used to develop the skill standards. The ability to issue immediate changes prior to publishing revised printed copies ensures the practical test standards are always accurate and usable. Current practical test standard books and a current listing of practical test standard changes are maintained on the web site under practical test standards.

Test Statistics

Test statistics for all airman knowledge tests are contained in a series of tables organized by year and subject area. Individual tables are provided for the following subject areas: test volume, pass rates, average test scores, countries, regions, and district offices.

Training Handbooks

The training handbooks are the basic information sources an airman applicant should refer to when preparing for the knowledge and practical tests for a specific certificate or rating. The handbooks will be located at this web site as they become available in electronic format.

A current listing of all available handbooks and instructions on how to purchase handbooks is maintained on the web site under training handbooks, file name: [currenthandbooks.pdf](#).

Subject Matter Knowledge Codes

Advisory Circular (AC) 60-25, Reference Materials and Subject Matter Knowledge Codes for Airman Knowledge Testing.

Appendixes 1 and 2 of this advisory circular contain the listings of reference materials and subject matter knowledge codes for airman knowledge testing. Appendix 1 includes codes for pilots, instructors, flight engineers, dispatchers, navigators, pilot examiners, inspection authorization, and parachute riggers. Appendix 2 includes codes for aircraft mechanics.

The listings of reference materials and subject matter knowledge codes have been prepared by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to establish specific references for all knowledge standards. The listings contain reference materials to be used when preparing for all airman knowledge tests. The subject matter knowledge codes should be referred to when reviewing areas of deficiency on airman knowledge test reports.